



Sheila Dixon

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Mayor Cheers City Agreement with SEED School

99-year lease on old Southwestern High School campus will provide unique opportunities for at-risk students from across the state

Baltimore, MD (October 3, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon applauded the vote by the Board of Estimates to approve a 99-year lease agreement between Baltimore City and the SEED School of Maryland, Inc. SEED will operate the new Maryland Public Boarding School, a unique school for at-risk students from Baltimore and throughout the State.

“I am proud to support the people from SEED who are bringing a wonderful educational opportunity to Baltimore,” said Mayor Dixon. “We look forward to the school turning troubled young people into the leaders of tomorrow.”

The lease agreement between the City of Baltimore and SEED is a long-term lease (up to 99 years) with a nominal \$1.00 annual cost.

The SEED School of Maryland, a non-profit 501(c) (3) entity, will operate the boarding school for up to 400 at-risk youth in grades six through twelve. The SEED School of Maryland will be based on the successful model of the SEED School of Washington, D.C., which is currently the nation’s only urban public boarding school. Ninety-seven percent of SEED graduates have been accepted to college. The SEED program for Maryland promises similar results due to its intensive six-year college preparatory program of small class sizes, strict promotion standards, mentorship, community service, extracurricular leadership and self-discipline.

The SEED Foundation is raising funds for the renovation and construction of appropriate facilities at the Southwestern High School site, so no public funds should be required for any of the capital costs. An important part of the program will be to integrate community uses into the school, so that surrounding residents can form a connection to the school and utilize resources like the library, auditorium and athletic facilities.

The establishment of the SEED School in Baltimore will offer another choice in the spectrum of public school options for City residents, consistent with the Mayor's vision for improved school facilities and educational programs.

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